

Memorandum

City of Tempe



Date: February 23, 2010

To: Council Transportation Committee

From: Oddvar Tveit through Don Hawkes and Charlotte Benson

Subject: The Tempe Aviation Commission - Request for Ordinance Changes

1) Membership Reduction

The Tempe Aviation Commission discussed the composition of the Commission at their October 13th 2009 meeting. The Commission is one of the City's larger Commissions consisting of 13 members who are recruited from neighborhoods located in the LDN 65 noise contour and from other noise impacted geographic areas throughout the community.

Because of the qualifying requirement, and the technical nature of the Commission's work, the members expressed concerns about future recruitment and ability to do their business effectively maintaining current membership requirements. The LDN noise contours are shrinking, and the need to learn new terms used in a field of technology with which most residents appointed to the Commission are unfamiliar when first appointed, has become more of a challenge.

During 2008, 3 positions remained vacant until late in the year, with the Commission not being able to gather a quorum for three of their monthly meetings. Recruitment and attendance could again become an issue in 2010 with 4 positions due to become vacant at the end of this year.

At the October 13th 2009 meeting the members decided to recommend to the Mayor and Council to reduce the membership of the Aviation Commission from 13 to 11. The members also discussed a reduction to 9 members, but concerns over losing a broad representation from all neighborhoods in Tempe subject to aircraft overflights, lead the members to recommend the reduction in membership to 11. This would reduce the current quorum requirement from 7 to 6 members.

2) Revised Scope of Powers and Duties

At the same meeting, the Commission also voted to recommend that the Mayor and Council expand the powers and duties of the Commission to include advice on all kinds of aircraft and airport impacts on Tempe. An expansion of the scope of airport issues beyond noise mitigation; sound insulation of homes, and land use under the flight paths and other noise-related issues, matters the Commission could make recommendations on, would include air quality impacts from aircraft and airport operations.